

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schoettle and Gelardi et al. in further view of Ooishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,408,733).

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection at least because there is no combination of Schoettle and Gelardi that would reasonably teach or suggest all of the claim's recitations. For example, there is no combination of Schoettle and Gelardi that would reasonably teach or suggest the claimed cartridge in which a plate type reel pressing spring has two ends, "wherein said reel pressure spring is supported on an inner surface of said upper half at only a proximal end," and the reel spring "is detachably mounted on the inner surface of said upper half."

Schoettle discloses reel presser springs 1a (FIG. 2) and 1b (FIG. 3) supported on an upper half at a proximal end and having a cantilever spring tongue 15 for urging a reel at a distal end. The cantilever spring tongue 15 is punched out from a board member, which is a spring base, and the proximal end of the cantilever spring 15 is connected to the spring base.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 2, there are hook-shaped ends 2a, 2b bent in a hooked shape toward the opposite side of the cantilever spring on both sides of the spring base in a longitudinal direction. The hook shaped ends are pushed into a transparent component 7 of a window 5.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 3, a hook-shaped end 2a' on one side is bent in a hooked shape toward the opposite side of the cantilever spring. The reel presser spring 1b illustrated in Figure 3 also has a fastening aperture 10 at the other end of the spring base. The

aperture 10 is engaged with a pin 9 vertically provided on an upper half in order to fasten the spring 1b in place.

The grounds of rejection assert that “Schoettle discloses a reel presser spring 1”, as claimed. Indeed, Schoettle discloses a “pressure spring 1” with a “spring 1a having two hook-shaped ends 2a and 2b” (Col. 3, lines 24-26). Pressure springs 1a or 1b, however, are not “supported on an inner surface of said upper half at only a proximal end”, as explicitly required by independent claim 1. To the contrary, either both of the hook-shaped ends, 2a and 2b, of spring 1a are embedded between the window 5 and the housing 4 (*See* FIG. 2) or one hook-shaped end 2a' is embedded between the window 5 and the housing 4, while the aperture 10 at the other end is engaged with a pin 9 (*See* FIG. 3).

Moreover, Schoettle's spring tongue 15 cannot be considered as corresponding to the recited a plate type reel pressing spring because the spring tongue 15 is integral with, and non-detachable from, spring 1a. Accordingly, even if a distal end of spring tongue 15 was associated with the distal end of the claimed pressure spring, Schoettle does not disclose any structure, and particularly not pressure spring 1, that is “supported on an inner surface of said upper half at only a proximal end” thereof.

Finally, the Examiner has recognized that the reel presser spring described in Schoettle cannot be detached from the cartridge without damaging the case body, the presser spring, and components of the cartridge. Therefore, the Examiner looks to Geraldini in an attempt to make up for this deficiency. Geraldini discloses a reel presser spring 14 whose both ends (e.g., 16, 18) are spring tongues for urging the reel, and whose center portion is fixed to four convex portions

(e.g., 30, 32, 34, 36) provided on the upper half in order to detachably mount the reel presser spring. Although a reel presser spring disclosed in Schoettle and a reel presser spring disclosed in Geraldi et al. have the same function as a spring to press a reel, they are totally different from each other in their structures and other functions, and therefore, they cannot be combined with each other. For example, as was discussed previously in the Amendment filed on February 28, 2004, Geraldi merely teaches a presser spring that attaches to a cassette cover at the midsection 22, and not a proximal end. There is no suggestion to apply Geraldi's presser spring otherwise.

Moreover, Ooishi fail to compensate for the above-described deficiency of Schoettle. Accordingly, the proposed combination of Schoettle and Gelardi does not teach or suggest all of the limitations recited in independent claim 1. For at least this reason, claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon, specifically, claims 2, 8, 9 and 27-30, are not rendered obvious by the proposed combination of Schoettle and Gelardi.

Further, at least claim 9 defines subject matter that is independently patentable over the prior art of record. Specifically, referring to FIG. 2, the grounds of rejection assert that Schoettle discloses the anchor portion with an implanted portion, i.e., "portion of window 5", that is implanted in the inner surface of the upper half, and an overhanging portion, i.e., "portion of window 5 that overhangs the upper half of the case and lies adjacent gap 8", that overhangs the implanted portion. It is unclear, however, which "portion of window 5" the grounds of rejection are referring to as being "implanted" in the upper surface and at the same time is overhung by the portion of the window that is adjacent gap 8. In fact, Schoettle does not disclose any structure

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that simultaneously meets both of these claimed requirements. For this additional reason, claim 9 is patentable over the proposed combination of Schoettle and Gelardi.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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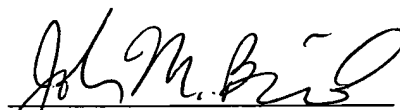
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